

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague Representative ELIOT ENGEL of New York, in congratulating the great people of Argentina in celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of their independence from Spain, which occurred on the 25th of May of 1810.

Born in 1810 out of a newfound sense of national identity, the trajectory of Argentinean independence is inspired by the same enlightenment ideas of self-determination and representative government that inspired America's independence movement. Like George Washington, Jose de San Martin, the liberator of Argentina, led the fight for freedom in armed struggle against the shackles of Spanish rule. At the heart of the U.S. example was the creation a constitution free from monarchy, building an infant democracy surrounded by European power in the new world. Capitalizing on Napoleonic control, Argentina's cry set in motion the wars of independence across South America and the creation of new republics by the decade's end.

America's 200-year relationship with Argentina commenced officially when President James Monroe promulgated a foreign policy based on the preservation of our republics from imperial intervention, thus securing a shared destiny of independence. In an unprecedented gesture of aid to an unrecognized country, President Monroe sent a representative whose primary objective was to assure the Argentinean people that "U.S. has the most sincere disposition towards its neighbors from Latin America and considers friendly exchanges as mutually beneficial." In 1822, the U.S. became the first non-Latin nation to establish formal diplomatic relations with Argentina. Our countries' friendship has been strong ever since.

An entire week of May leading up to the 25th is devoted to celebrating several events that sparked Argentina's movement towards independence, with expatriates and Argentinean-Americans in cities across the United States also partaking in celebrations. Argentines have a proud history of enriching the world's literary, art and musical, and sports arenas. Tango performers like Carlos Gardel, and writing artists like Jorge Luis Borges, have injected masterpieces into our global tapestry, while one of the most famous soccer magicians Diego Armando Maradona amazed fans during the 1986 World Cup.

It is with great joy, Madam Speaker, that I ask the rest of my colleagues to congratulate our great neighbor on this historic achievement for their people. I wish the President of Argentina and Argentineans across the world a festive week.

HONORING JEFFREY SIEGEL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Mr. Jeffrey Siegel of

Berrien Regional Educational Service Agency. After over three decades of service to the education community of southwest Michigan, Mr. Siegel will be retiring as the Superintendent of Berrien RESA.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in psychology from Adelphi University in New York, Jeff made his way to Mount Pleasant, Michigan where he attended Central Michigan University and earned both his master and specialist degrees.

Mr. Siegel has served as Berrien RESA's superintendent for over seven years and has accomplished many great milestones during his distinguished tenure. Jeff created a Medicaid billing site in southwest Michigan and has worked with local school districts to reduce the number of children referred to special education across the county by nearly 15 percent. He redefined his organization's service scope to include programs and services specifically related to supporting classroom technology, student data management, business office support, career training and school safety.

In addition to his professional responsibilities at Berrien RESA, Mr. Siegel, serves his community as a leader of the Berrien Community Foundation, Berrien Springs/Eau Claire Rotary, Temple B'Nai Shalom, Consortium for Community Development, Community Partnership for Lifelong Learning, and the Great Start Collaborative Early Childhood Investment Corporation. He also serves as a member of a variety of state and local professional organizations and has been appointed by the Michigan Department of Education to provide leadership and oversight to committees related to Medicaid and intermediate school districts.

For over three decades in the Berrien County education community, Jeffrey Siegel's leadership, skills, compassion, and commitment to education have made him an indispensable asset to the citizens of Berrien County. As Mr. Siegel prepares for his retirement, he leaves a legacy that will benefit the community for years to come.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF DR.
STEPHEN L. PAGE, ED. D. AS SUPERINTENDENT,
HENDERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS,
NORTH CAROLINA**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Stephen L. Page, Ed. D. on his June 30th retirement from his position as the Superintendent of Henderson County Schools. Dr. Page's efforts have been central to the development and success of the public school system of Western North Carolina where he has served faithfully and effectively for the past 37 years.

Before beginning his career in the public school system, Dr. Page served honorably as a First Lieutenant, Combat Executive Officer, in the United States Army. For his bravery and meritorious service during the Vietnam War, Dr. Page was awarded the Bronze Star.

Dr. Page is also actively involved in the Henderson County Community. He is a member of the Civitan Club of Hendersonville and

serves as Chairman of the Civitan Foundation Board of Directors. He serves on the United Way of Henderson County Board of Directors and on the Daniel Boone Council of Boy Scouts of America. Dr. Page also served as the Honorary Chairman of the 2007 March of Dimes WalkAmerica campaign in Henderson County.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Stephen Page today, to thank him for his tremendous service to the community, and to wish him well in his retirement.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
LIEUTENANT COLONEL THOMAS
P. BELKOFE FOR HIS SERVICE
TO THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA IN THE THEATER OF
OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM**HON. ROBERT E. LATTI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 2010

Mr. LATTI. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay special tribute to a military hero from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. United States Army LTC Thomas P. Belkofer, 44, of Perrysburg, Ohio, lost his life in combat on May 18, 2010 as a result of wounds sustained in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer was assigned to the headquarters of the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Drum, New York. He is survived by his dear wife Margaret, and their daughters Alyssa and Ashley.

An individual dedicated to giving his all in everything, Thomas Belkofer was a determined athlete at his alma mater, Rossford High School, where he graduated in 1983. Thomas served in the Ohio Army National Guard, and in the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, in college. In 1992, Thomas received his Bachelor's Degree from Bowling Green State University in Architecture and Environmental Design. It was this same year he married his college sweetheart, Margaret Maness, and both were commissioned in the United States Army. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer earned his Masters in Business Administration degree from Syracuse University during his active duty service.

A committed Army officer, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer served 18 years at various military assignments, including the bases in Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort George G. Meade in Maryland; The Pentagon; a 13-month deployment to Afghanistan; Vincenzo, Italy; and Fort Drum, New York. During his first deployment in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer assisted with the establishment of a financial infrastructure for Afghan government employees, many of them soldiers. Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer's life and accomplishments reflect his commitment to his country and the protection of its freedoms.

In addition to his various assignments that have taken Lieutenant Colonel Belkofer all over the world, he received many badges, medals, and ribbons. These include the Overseas Service Bar, Army Staff Identification Badge, Air Assault Badge, Parachutist Badge, Combat Action Badge, Army Joint Meritorious Award, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Humanitarian Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with